

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 CAB-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00

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P 142135Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7158

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTREAL 40

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJ: ICAO: ELECTION OF NEW SECRETARY GENERAL (FRENCH CANDIDACY)

REF: MONTREAL 0014, 75 MONTREAL 1692

1. PURSUANT TO PARA 3 REFTEL A ITALY REP CUCCI CALLED ON USREP JANUARY 13. HE WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO EXPLAIN HIS ROLE ONLY AS "SOUNDING BOARD" RE LAMBERT CANDIDACY. HE SAID HE IS ONLY "ROBOT" TAKING REACTIONS AND REPORTING THEM TO LAMBERT. HE STATED THAT HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT HIS OWN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WOULD BE RE THIS CANDIDACY.

2. USREP'S RESPONSE WAS: A. POSSIBILITY OF A LAMBERT CANDIDACY WAS REPORTED TO WASHINGTON FOLLOWING HIS OWN DISCUSSIONS WITH US ALTERNATE JANUARY 7 (REFTEL A); B. SIMILARLY USREP WILL REPORT CUCCI VISIT TO USG; C. USG HAS NO COMMENT, AND USREP EMPHASIZED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS NEGATIVE OR POSITIVE (US SILENCE RE KOTAITE OVERTURES JUNE, JULY 1975 WAS LATER INTERPRETED AS TACIT AGREEMENT TO KOTAITE CANDIDACY.); D. USREP INDICATED THAT US WILL FORMULATE ITS POSITION RE CANDIDATES AFTER A MORE COMPLETE PICTURE OF ALTERNATIVES IS AVAILABLE.

3. AFTER ABOVE "OFFICIAL INFORMAL" EXCHANGE, USREP REMINDED
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CUCCI THAT US AND OTHER COUNCIL STATES HAD REPEATEDLY INDICATED

THAT PLACEMENT IN THE PRESIDENCY OF FRENCH-SPEAKING, FRENCH-EDUCATED KOTAITE, WOULD INDICATE CLEARLY THE NEED FOR AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING SYG. FURTHER WE DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR SOME TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN SYGSHIP SINCE IT IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE IN PRESIDENCY, AND RE-ITERATED THE NEED FOR REPRESENTATION OF MAJOR AVIATION IN THE SYGSHIP SINCE A THIRD WORLD, MINOR AVIATION STATE IS IN THE PRESIDENCY.

4. HAVING IN MIND EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH CUCCI AS REPORTED REFTEL B, USREP COMMENTED PERSONALLY THAT IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT USREP CANDIDACY WILL BE FILED. CUCCI EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND GREAT REGRET AND SAID THAT "USREP WOULD HAVE BEEN SOLUTION TO ENTIRE DILEMMA." HE WENT ON TO SAY HOWEVER THAT A LAST MINUTE EXERCISE LIKE THE US HANDLED THE PRESIDENCY WOULD BE FRUITLESS AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.
HARPER

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